

Message Text

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ATTN: IOP/M, IBS, RIM, IPS, ILA

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TAGS: PFOR, BR, CH

SUBJECT: DAILY REACTION REPORT,

1. NIXON IMPEACHMENT/RESIGNATION: RECEIVED HEAVY NEWSPLAY
AND COMMENTARY OVER WEEKEND.

A. MAY 11. PAPERS PLAYED, IN MOSTLY SENSATIONAL WAY,
WIRE-SERVICE SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT TURN
THE PRESIDENCY OVER TO FORD UNTIL THE CONGRESSIONAL
IMPEACHMENT ACTION COMPLETED. SAMPLE HEADLINES:
INDEPENDENT JORNAL DO BRASIL (RIO): "NIXON MAY LEAVE THE
SCENE UNTIL SENATE DECISION"; CONSERVATIVE JORNAL DA
TARDE (SAO PAULO): "IS NIXON THINKING OF RESIGNATION?";
PRO-GOB DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (RIO): "NIXON HANDS
PRESIDENCE TO GERALD FORD" (BUT STORY LEAD SAYS
NIXON "IS PREPARING TO TURN THE PRESIDENCY OVER" TO
FORD ON AN INTERIM BASIC).

B. SOME MAY 12 PAPERS CARRY REPORT FROM JERUSALEM
THAT RUMORS THERE INDICATED, FOR A WHILE, THAT
NIXON WAS RESIGNING AND THAT SECSTATE KISSINGER WOULD
BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. SAMPLE HEADLINE:
DIARIO DE NOTICIAS -- "NIXON'S SITUATION DISTURBS
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KISSINGER'S MISSION IN ISRAEL."

C. MAY 13 PAPERS REPORT PRESIDENT NIXON'S STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, STATEMENT THAT HE WILL NOT RESIGN. LIBERAL FOLHA DE SAO PAULO HEADLINES THE STORY, "NIXON REITARATES HIS DECISION TO STAY ON THE JOB."

D. COMMENTARIES: PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN LEAD EDITORIAL MAY 12 REPEATS LINE IT HAS CARRIED PREVIOUSLY: "NOW IS THE TIME FOR NORTH-AMERICAN NATION TO DECIDE, IN ITS OWN INTEREST AND IN THAT OF ALL THE WEST, IF NIXON IS GUILTY OR NOT -- AND FOR NIXON HIMSELF TO DECIDE IF THIS SITUATION HE CAN STILL SERVE THE NATION OR NOT..." CONSERVATIVE O GLOBO FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL OF MAY 11 CALLS THE IDEA OF NIXON REMAINING IN OFFICE "UNVIABLE." AN EDITORIAL CARTOON IN THE MAY 11 JORNAL DO BRASIL SHOWS NIXON TAKING A COURTROOM OATH, SAYING, "I SWEAR, " BUT HE IS HOLDING CROSSED FINGERS HIS BACK.

2. KISSINGER'S MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS: CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MODERATE PLAY. SOME MAY 12 PAPERS PUBLISHED NEWS STORIES SPECULATING THAT AN ACCORD ON GOLAN WAS IMMINENT.

3, BRAZIL-CHINA RELATIONS: TV NEWSCASTS MAY 11 AND NESPAPERS MAY 12 REPORTED THAT THE GOB IS CONSIDERING FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING -- THESE POSSIBLE TO DEPEND UPON THE RESULT OF THE VISIT OF A MAINLAND CHINESE TRADE MISSION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO VISIT BRAZIL LATER THIS YEAR. STORIES INDICATE BRAZIL EXPECTS MAJOR TRADE OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE CHINESE MAINLAND, AND THAT ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY'S "RESPONSIBLE PRAGMATISM" IN FOREIGN POLICY, TRADE IS A MAJOR FACTOR. A REPORT IN THE MAY 12 O GLOBO SAYS: "THIS (FOREIGN) POLICY IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT BRAZIL IS ATTAINING A POSITION EVER MORE IMPORTANT ON THE WORLD SCENE AND IT CANNOT PERMIT DIFFERENCES IN POLICIES AND IDEOLOGIES TO INTERFERE IN THE HANDLING OF ITS PERMANENT INTERESTS, SUCH AS FOREIGN TRADE."

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4. U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS: JORNAL DO BRASIL MAY 13 EDITORIAL SAYS PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR ESTABLISHING ROUTINE TWICE-YEARLY MEETINGS BETWEEN U.S. SECSTATE AND BRAZILIAN FONMIN TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. SUCH A PROGRAM OF REGULAR CONSULTATION SHOULD PROVIDE " A NEW AND SERIOUS APPROACH TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND

BRAZIL," THE PAPER SAYS, EDITORIAL ADDS:

"BRAZIL IS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY, BUT IN A NEW AND
PRAGMATIC SENSE: IT IS NOT ALIGNED WITH THE
NON-ALIGNED, BUT PRESERVES ITS TOTAL INDEPENDENCE
ON ALL ISSUES WHICH MAY SURFACE. IT WILL FACE EACH
AND EVERY PROBLEM EXCLUSIVELY ON THE BASIS OF
NATIONAL INTEREST. IT WILL ALWAYS SEEK, NONETHELESS,
INSOFAR AS THIS SERVES ITS OWN INTERESTS, A COMMON
POSITION WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S., WITHIN A
FRAMEWORK OF GROWING RECIPROCITY".
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